

Hamilton Field, Group Headquarters Type D  
(Facility No. 840)  
Northwestern Pacific Railroad tracks and  
Skeet Range Road  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-BY

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IBY-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**

**HAMILTON FIELD  
Group Headquarters Type D  
(Facility No. 840)**

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IBY-

**HABS No. CA-2398-BY**

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Group Headquarters Type D  
Facility No. 840 (Northwestern Pacific Railroad tracks and Skeet Range Road)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)  
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)  
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;  
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

**Significance:**

Building B40 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. The air group headquarters was built during World War II as part of the base expansion and became a engineering office facility, an integral part of the Civil Engineering Division, a group responsible for maintaining base facilities.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-239B-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

**Description:**

This one-story frame building is U-shaped and has a low-pitched composition gable roof with louvers in the gable ends. It consists of a main building, 88 feet by 20 feet, with a 61-foot by 20-foot wing connected by a 30-foot by 20-foot connecting passage way. The siding is horizontal board covered with asbestos shingles. The building is set on concrete piers.

Floors are tongue and groove wood covered with eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tiles. Exterior pedestrian doors are solid core wood with four lights above three recessed panels. They have standard lock sets with round knobs and half-mortised door hinges. Fenestration consists of six- over six-light frame sash, double hung.

The interior walls and ceilings are covered with gypsum board; some rooms have been modernized with the addition of acoustical tile ceilings. Interior doors are solid core wood with four lights over three recessed panels; replacement doors are hollow core wood. Original lighting fixtures were schoolhouse type with milk glass globes mounted on ceilings.

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Replacement lights are recessed industrial type two-tube fluorescent fixtures. A large addition was added to the northwest side of this building in 1957, but the appearance and original sections of the building remain essentially unaltered.

**Historical Context:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Initial construction of Facility 840 occurred in 1944 for \$5,520.77. Additions were made in 1957, 1959, and 1965, resulting in the u-shaped structure present today. Original use was as an air group headquarters. By the end of the war this building was the administrative center of the civil engineering complex. It retained its use until 1974, when it was vacated due to base closure. It has remained empty ever since and is dilapidated.

**Sources:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398).

See the project Field Record, roll 49, exposures 1-6; and roll 94, exposures 1-2.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

**Project Information:**

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994.

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The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California

Date prepared: July 1995

Photography prepared by: David De Vries

Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

Date: May 1993 and November 1994



NOTE: Unlabelad rooms usad as officas

